

Trade Y. B. D. L.
SOME FURTHER
OBSERVATIONS
ON THE
TREATY
OF
NAVIGATION
AND
COMMERCE
BETWEEN
GREAT-BRITAIN
AND
FRANCE;
AND

On the Scheme of the French TRADE,
From 1668, to 1669.

London: Printed for J. Baker, at the Black-Boy in Paternoster-Row; and Sold by T. Harrison, at the South-West Corner of the Royal-Exchange, 1713. Price 3d.

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from 1663 to 1669.

Printed by J. Smith, in the Strand, in 1769.
By Authority, and sold by J. Smith, at the Strand.
Price 1s. 6d.

Some Further Observations on the

TREATY

OF

Navigation and Commerce,

BETWEEN

Great-Britain and France, &c.

IN the Third Matter referred to the Commissioners, Page 55. of the Treaty of Commerce, it is said, That *only Barrel Fish* is to be imported into *France*. Now a Last, or 12 Barrels of Herrings is to pay 40 Livres *Tournois*, or 3*l.* 11*s.* and 3*d.* Sterling, at 4*s.* and 6*d.* per French Crown of 3 Livres *Tournois*; (which Calculation of Four Shillings and Six-pence is made according to the intrinsick Worth of their Money, when

in time of Peace; for 'twould be impertinent in us to make the Calculation at the Price the Money now goes at in *France*, where the *French* King has from time to time heighten'd or lowered the Denomination of his Money, as his Affairs have required, the Regulation whereof is expected every Moment) so that every Barrel of Herrings will Pay near six Shillings Sterling, besides a *further Duty*, which, perhaps, may not well be consider'd, *viz.* That by the same Article, 'tis also to Pay a further Duty, or Excise, or by what other Name it shall be called, in the several Towns through which it shall pass all over the Kingdom of *France*. The Words of the Article are as follows:

And at all the Places of Entrance in the Kingdom, Countries, and Territories, under the Dominion of the King, even at all Free Ports (of which Dunkirk is one) the Duties of Landing, and of Consumption, shall be paid, which were appointed before the Tariff of 1664, (Who can tell how much that may be?) and besides 40 Livres per Last of Twelve Barrels.

Can this, together with those Duties of six Shillings *per* Barrel, be deemed any other than a *Prohibition*? There was no need to restrain its Importation to *Five* Places only, for these Things considered, *One* would have been more than could be made use of; so that the *French* may truly say, they gave us
Five

Five Places, the better to facilitate our Commerce in this Commodity.

Note, The Calculation in the Scheme hereunto annexed, is made on the Prime Cost in France and in England, to avoid any Mistake in valuing them as they now sell, when Duties, &c. are added; nor would that shew the real Value in the Country from whence they are brought, without which, a true Estimate cannot be made of the Ballance of Trade.

If at that time, this Nation took off 11000 Tons of Wine, and 4000 Tons of Brandy from France, Communibus annis, How vast will the Importation be now?

*N. B. The Lead is over-rated near 3*l.* per Fodder; Allum above One third Part first Cost, and other Things in Proportion.*

The Valuation there put on the Norwich Stuffs, Serges, Perpetuanoes, and most of the other Woollen Goods, exceed what they are now worth about One fourth Part.

Nor can it be supposed that any of these Woollen Goods will be sent to France, though it should be granted that there is a Liberty by the Treaty so to do, because it's contrary to Reason, to believe that when the French are such expert Workers of that Manufacture, as to vie with us in a Foreign Trade, as they actually do with too much Success in that to Turkey, how can we expect to compare with them in France it self, where they

are at Home, or pretend to send them any of our Woollen Goods? So that the Allowance they give us of importing Woollen Goods to *St. Vallery, Rouen, and Bourdeaux*, must not be esteem'd of any Moment to us.

If the Trade to *France* was disadvantageous in 1669, as by this Scheme it seems to be, 'twas because the *low* Duties then paid *here* on *French* Commodities, gave a great Encouragement to their Consumption: On the contrary, 'tis acknowledged by the Papers of the C——rs of Trade, That in the Three Years and a Half after the *Peace of Reswick*, this Nation gain'd upon the Ballance of Trade with *France*, 385000*l.* where 'tis to be consider'd, that all that while the *French* Commodities were under severe Prohibitions, and very high Duties; which discouraging the Consumption of *French* Goods, brought the Ballance in our Favour: Nor will the *French* take any more of our Commodities *now*, than they did during that short-liv'd Peace; but if the Duties be lowered here, and the Prohibitions taken off, *we* shall take off their Goods to an *immense* Value, which may rather exceed, than otherwise, the Calculation here-under.

Upon

Upon the Calculation in the Scheme hereunto annex'd, the Article of Linnen, Canvas, &c. amounts to — — — —

507250 94 99

Wrought Silk, instead of what is there reckon'd, considering what is privately brought in, and the great Consumption of *French Silks* since that time, and what is entred in the Out-Ports, and the Article of black Silks, (which alone cannot amount to less than 500000 l.) the whole may fairly be reckon'd at — — — —

800000 00 00

Clarets, which in this Calculation are set at but 12 l. 10 s. first Cost in *France*, are since encreased to 25 l. per Ton, one with another, at the very least, occasion'd by the great Demand there is for those Wines, from the Fashion of drinking Red-Wine now more than at that time, not only in *England*, but in *Holland*, *Germany*, and even *France* it self; so that at 25 l. per Ton, they are rather under than over valued; which upon 14000 Tons per Ann. that 'tis acknowledged by the C—rs were imported since, comes to —

350000 00 00

4000 Tons of Brandies at 25 l. per Ton, — — —

100000 00 00

These Four Articles alone, make upwards of — — — without reckoning any encrease on the Linnen Manufacture, A 4

1757250 00 00

The

The Paper, Feathers, Kid-
Skins, Salt and Rozen, amounts,
by the Calculation hereunto
annex'd, with the Vinegar,
Cork, &c. to — — — 111400 00 00

Together — — — 1868650 00 00

Over and above the *Laces*, &c. to an incredible
Value.

Besides the Encrease, which (were there
time) might be more particularly found by
the Custom-House-Books, from 1669, to 1688.

N. B. That in the Year 1620, there was a
Book Printed, giving an Account of the *New-
foundland* Trade, which then employ'd up-
wards of 200 Sail of *English* Ships, where-
with we then furnished all *Europe* with that
Fish; but that Trade is now, since the *French*
have had Liberty of Fishing, and Drying
their Fish there, most miserably decay'd; and
'tis feared, will do so every Day more and
more, if they are to have *Cape Bretton* yeil-
ded to them, which is to the West-South-
West of all our Settlements there, and be also
allow'd to dry their Fish to the Northward
of *Bonavista*, by which they will be on both
sides of us.

By all that has been said, 'tis not intended
to debar *Gentlemen* from drinking *French*
Wine, but only that if the Duties on Wines
must be lowered, the high Duties on other
Commodities should not. After the Peace of
Reswick,

Refwick, the best *French* Clarret was commonly sold but at 100 *l.* per Ton by the Importer, and 120 *l.* per Ton by the Vintner, which is but 2 *s.* 9 *d.* per Quart; and when the high Duties on *French* Wines are reduced down to the Duties payable upon *Portugal* Wines, 'twill only lessen the Price about 7 *d.* or 8 *d.* per Quart. So that the Dispute lies here, *Whether* Gentlemen will be contented to pay 2 *s.* 9 *d.* per Quart, with the high Duties? Or, *Whether* they had rather, by taking them off, have it at 2 *s.* 2 *d.* per Quart; and at the same time, let in all other Commodities of the Growth, Product, or Manufacture of *France* in great Quantities, to the Ruin of the many Poor People whose absolute Dependance is on the Manufactures of *England*, and reducing them to a State of Beggary, or force them to go to *France*; which was the Effect of that Act of Parliament that was made to hinder the sending any Woollen Manufactures out of *Ireland* to any Foreign Country; for the Poor of *Ireland*, who could not after that find Employment there, and were refused to be admitted into the several Parishes here in *England*, who thought they had Poor enough, were reduced to the Necessity of going to *France*, or Starving. The *French* were so wise as to receive them, Poor as they were, with open Arms; and 'tis this that has very much helped to bring the *Perpetuanoes*, and other Woollen Manufactures in *France* to that Perfection,

fection, wick will encrease still more and more, if our own Poor Workmen are forced to go thither too.

Some Gentlemen may apprehend that if the 8th and 9th Articles of the Treaty of Commerce are not rendred effectual, the Peace will be broke; but there can be no Reason to fear any such thing, for the Treaty of Peace and the Treaty of Commerce are two distinct Treaties; nay, so far from that, that the rest of the Articles of the Treaty of Commerce will still be firm. So that no Inconvenience can arise by the not passing such an Act; but on the contrary, a great deal of Good; for then the Silks, Linnens, Paper, Salt, and other Growths and Manufactures of *France* will be discouraged, and our own encouraged. And as for Wines, the greatest Misfortune attending them, will be, that they will be sold by the Retailer at about 7 *d.* or 8 *d.* *per* Quart dearer than if the Duties were lower'd; a great Inconvenience indeed! And as for Brandies, they may, paying the high Duties, be sold at 2 *s.* 3 *d.* or 2 *s.* 7 *d.* *per* Quart; but if those Duties are taken off, we shall lose the Distilling of any Spirits from Barley, Molasses, or other Things here, which brings in so great a Revenue.

But besides, there is no part of the Treaty of Peace, nor any other Article of the Treaty of Commerce that can be any ways broke by the leaving the 8th and 9th Articles as they are;

are; as will appear from the Words of the 9th Article it self, for there 'tis provided; *That within two Months from the Exchange of the Ratifications of this Treaty, Commissaries shall meet on both sides at London (what to do?) to consider of, and remove the Difficulties concerning the Merchandize to be excepted out of the Tariff of 1664, and concerning other Heads, which are not yet wholly adjusted.* And then the Article goes on, and says; and at the same time the said Commissaries shall likewise endeavour (which seems to be very much for the Interest of both Nations) to have Methods of Commerce on one part, and of the other more thorowly examin'd, and to find out and establish just and beneficial Means on both sides for removing the Difficulties in this Matter, and for regulating the Duties mutually. From whence 'tis plain, that should such a Law pass, as is there demanded, it is supposed by the Article it self, that there would be many Things which would yet demand to be more thorowly examin'd, and to find out and establish just and beneficial Means on both Sides. So that there may be many Alterations made after passing such a Law, and the Treaty not thereby broken. But if it should happen that the French Commissaries should be stiff, and would not agree to just and beneficial Means for us, our Act would notwithstanding that be passed, and they would reap the Benefit of it. These

These things we take to be of the utmost Consequence to the Well-being of the Nation, and we hope that *just and beneficial Means will be settled*, and then the *French* cannot so easily prejudice us.

In our Humble Opinion, it had been better that One of the *Five Places* where *Barrel Fish* is admitted to an Entry in *France*, had been situated on the *Mediterranean-Sea*, and that *Marseilles* had been inserted, instead of *Libourne*; or if no Place in the *Mediterranean* could be procured, that at least those *Five* on the Ocean, had been placed at such Distances, as to render the Consumption more Diffusive. *Marseilles* is the chiefest for Trade of all the *French Ports* in the *Mediterranean*, whereas *Libourne* is a Place of little or no Trade; and is so near *Bordeaux* (Distance about 10 Leagues) that 'tis feared very little more of the Inland Part of *France* will be supplied from thence, than from *Bordeaux* alone, both Rivers on which they stand having the same (*Emboucheure*, or) opening to the Sea, and may be fitly compared to *Glocester* and *Bristol*, or *Rocheſter* and *London*.

The Advantages which the *French* may receive by the 9th Article more than we, deserves to be taken Notice of; the Words are, *Fol. 14. That no more Customs or Duties be paid for Goods and Merchandizes brought from France (é Gallia) to Great-Britain, than, &c.* and lower in the same Page, 'tis said, *That*

all

all Prohibitions, Tariffs, Edicts, Declarations, or Decrees made in France, since the said Tariff of 1664; and contrary thereunto, in respect to the Goods and Merchandizes of Great-Britain (*Bona Mercesque Magnæ Britannia*) shall be repealed. By which Words we are apprehensive, that should an Act pass to make this Article effectual, the Act of Navigation, and other Acts (this being subsequent to them) may in some Measure be repealed: And that all Goods, whether they be of the Growth or Manufacture of France, or of any other Country, as Turkey, Italy, &c. coming FROM France (*é Gallia*) may be admitted here, by virtue of this Article, without an equal Admission of Turkey, East-India, or other Foreign Commodities, to be sent from hence to France; because we fear, That the Words (*Magnæ Britannia*) OF Great-Britain (not *é Magna Britannia*) FROM Great-Britain, will, by that Subtle Nation (who know as well how to make use of the Letter against the Spirit, as the Spirit against the Letter, of a Treaty) be construed to restrain us from sending them any Commodities, but what are properly of the Growth, Product, or Manufacture OF Great-Britain; an Advantage over us which ought not easily to be allow'd them.

What makes us the more fearful of the foregoing Disadvantage to this Nation, is the Nice Distinction the French made in their Edict

Edict of the 6th of Septem. 1701. prohibiting our Merchants, and our Ships (tho' sold to, and navigated by others) from carrying any Merchandize whatsoever into France, except they were of English Growth, or made wholly of English Materials.

The E D I C T runs thus :

Or donne pareillement Sa Majesté que les Negocians Anglois, soit qu'ils viennent sur des vaisseaux d' Angleterre, ou sur des vaisseaux d'autres Nations a eux appartenans ; & les vaisseaux Anglois, soit qu'ils appartiennent ou soient Commandez par des Anglois, ou qu'ils appartiennent a des Negocians d'autre Nations, ou soit Commandez par d'autres Estrangers ; ne pourront apporter dans le Royaume d'autres Marchandises que celles du cru, & celles fabriquées avec, des Matieres du cru d' Angleterre, à peine de Confiscation de la Marchandise & du Vaisseau, & de trois mille livres d'amende contre le Marchand qui les récevrait dans le Royaume.

IN ENGLISH.

His Majesty likewise orders, that the English Traders, Whether they come upon Ships belonging to England, or upon Ships of other Nations to them belonging ; and English Ships, whether they belong to, or are commanded by English, or whether they belong to Traders of other Nations, or commanded by Foreigners (That was, lest we should have the Advantage of Building for, and Selling Ships to other Nations) shall not bring into the

the Kingdom other Merchandize, than such as are of the Growth, or Manufactured with the Materials of the Growth of England, upon Pain of forfeiting Ship and Goods, and 3000 Livres Penalty upon the Importer.

This severe Edict of 1701, does not appear by the 9th Article to be repealed, and therefore will still be in full Force; for the Words in the 9th Article are only, *That all Prohibitions, &c. in respect to the Goods and Merchandize of Great-Britain, shall be repealed;* but this respecting the Goods that are not of the Growth or Manufacture of *Great-Britain*, but brought in *English* Ships, is not hereby repealed, and consequently, no Wrought Silks, Printed or Stained Callicots, no Pepper, nor other *East-India* Goods; no Gauls, or other *Turkey* Goods, can be sent into *France* from hence, because they are not of the Growth or Manufacture of *Great-Britain*. Nay, more; no Cloth, Ratines, or Serges (were it possible to afford them cheaper than the *French*) can be sent into *France* from hence, if they are Manufactured of, or Mixt with, *Spanish* Wooll, that being a Foreign Material. Nor any Fish, unless it be wholly cured with *English* Salt.

But supposing that a Liberty of carrying *Turkey*, and other Commodities to *France*, in *British* Ships should be yielded us, it can be of little Use in any Trade; but less in the *Turkey* Trade, than any other: For if it be considered

Considered that the *French* have a very good Woollen Manufacture in the *Southern Provinces* of *France*, which they send to *Turkey* from *Marseilles*, and receive their Return in Raw-Silk, and other Commodities, directly back again. If it be further considered, how vastly nearer *Marseilles* is, than *England*, to *Turkey*, and how much more the Freight and Insurance is from *Turkey* to *England*, than to *Marseilles*; and also, that on Re-shipping from hence the *Half-Subsidy* (which is not drawn back) together with the Freight, Insurance, and other Charges on Re-shipping such Goods from hence to *France*, must greatly inhaunce the Account. When these Things are put together, he must be very *Fond*, that can suppose any *Turkey* or any *Italian*, *Spanish*, *Portugal*, or *East-India* Commodities can be Shipped off from hence for *France*: So that this Liberty, if it be granted ought to be esteemed of little Account; and that all Things, even their *Concessions*, are to be suspected from such a Nation as That.

— Aut ulla putatis
 Dona carere dolis Danaum? Sic notus Uliisses
 Aut hoc inclusi ligno occultantur Achivi;
 Aut hæc in nostros fabricata est Machina Muros
 Inspectura Domos, venturaque de super uisita
 Aut aliquis latet error: equo ne credite, Teucri
 Quicquid id est, Timeo Danaos & dona ferentes
 Virg.

London